

Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission
September 1, 2015 (6:00-8:00 PM)
Seattle City Hall, Room 370

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Tsegaba Woldehaimanot, Mindy Au, Michele Ramirez, , Riddhi Mukhopadhyay, Roxana Norouzi, Jeniffer Calleja, Luis Ortega, Marilena Morales, Dori Cahn, Isatou Jallow.

Commissioners Absent: Kianoush Naficy, Simon Khin, Veasna Adrian Hoy, Farhiya Mohamed,

OIRA Staff Present: Maha Jahshan

Call to Order: 6:05 pm

Welcome (Co-Chairs)

Riddhi opened the meeting. Jen moved to approve the August minutes and Marilena seconded. They were unanimously approved. Welcomed new commissioner Isatou Jallow.

OIRA Director's Report

Maha gave the Director's Report. She highlighted OIRA's outreach events and the Deputy Director search.

Seattle City Attorney Presentation (Craig Sims)

Craig Sims presented the work the City Attorney has been doing on the wage theft ordinance and newly-enacted wage theft civil component that will be handled by the Office of Labor Standards. These laws are meant to protect all workers, regardless of their immigration status.

The Commission gave feedback to Mr. Sims on community outreach efforts. A suggestion was made to provide a list of community-based organizations for outreach. Mr. Sims offered to update the commission on the progress after outreach efforts have been completed.

Emerging Trends and Issues in the Community (Co-Chairs)

Discussed the upcoming city budget hearings and implications it has on immigrant and refugee communities. The commission will discuss actions once the budget is released.

Subcommittee Updates (All)-

The Immigration subcommittee researched detention and deportation issues and examined possibilities to increase visibility. They also discussed a field trip to the old INS building.

The Economic Justice subcommittee met with Maggie Thompson in the Office of Policy & Innovation about homelessness. They are also meeting with NWIRP staff to discuss U Visas.

The Education subcommittee set up an educational field trip to Seattle World School and a dual language preschool.

The Executive subcommittee discussed the recent Five Commission meeting, which included publicity around paid sick leave, particularly for immigrant and refugee communities. They also shared a draft of the Immigrant and Refugee Commission presenter guidelines.

Announcements (All)

Jen announced community meetings coming up with the Parks department and shared the promotional flyer.

Adjourn

The commission adjourned at 8:00 pm.